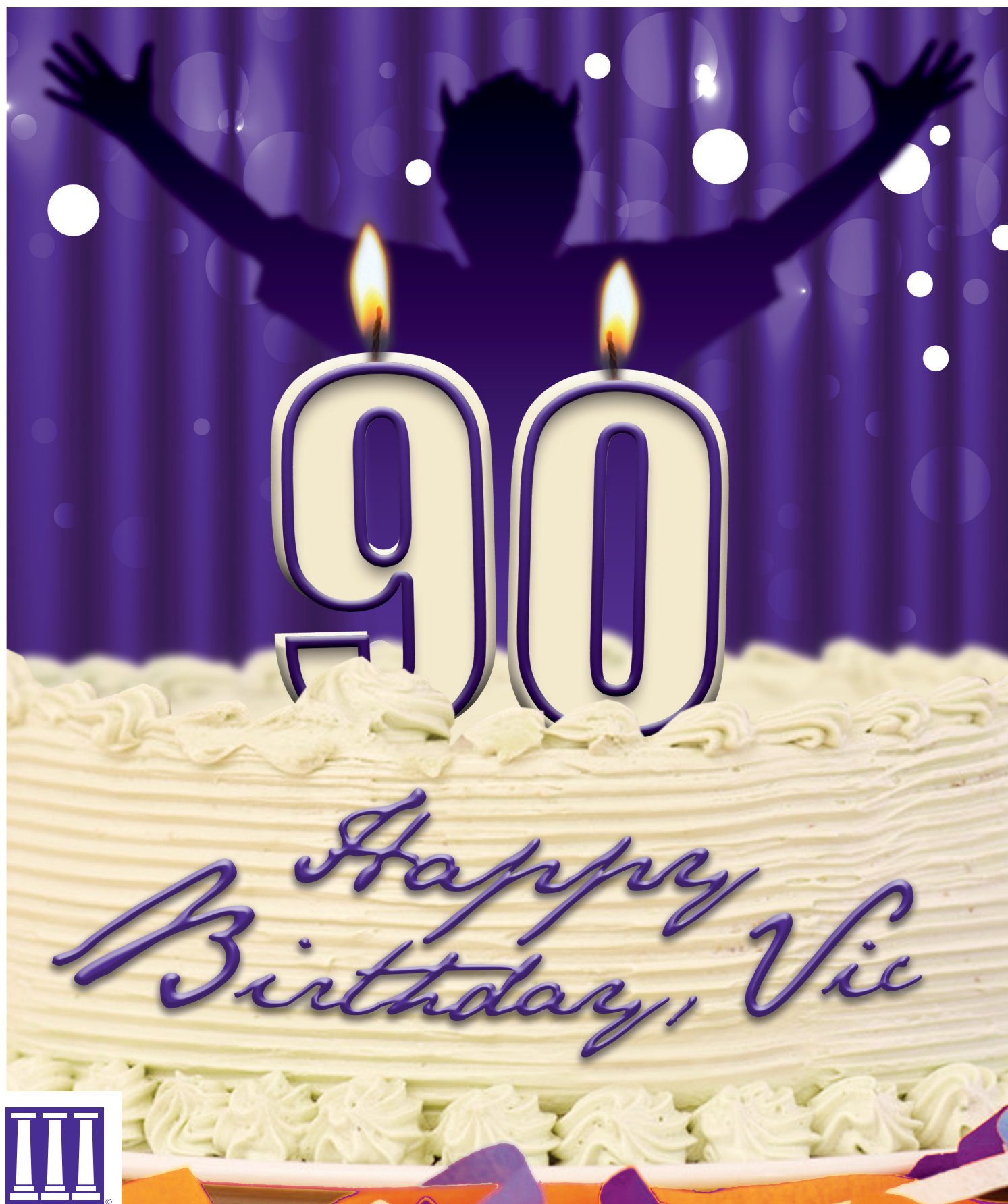


SUMMER 2013 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine





*Dr. Randall J. Webb,
1965, 1966
President
Northwestern State
University*

Dear Alumni,

A successful 2012-13 academic year has just concluded at Northwestern State University. During spring commencement, 852 students joined the ranks of alumni. Combined with fall commencement, more than 1,700 students earned degrees during this academic year. That is one of the best years in Northwestern State history. This was also an outstanding year for our athletic program as the men's basketball, women's tennis and women's softball teams each captured Southland Conference Tournament Championships and appeared in the NCAA Tournament.

We often talk about the sense of family that exists at Northwestern State. Earlier this year, following the tragic loss of an alumna and respected member of our staff, her colleagues in the Registrar's Office chose to honor her memory by establishing a scholarship to benefit the students she once served. Melinda Martin McClung was a valued employee and her husband Phillip, also a Northwestern State alum, is a popular Middle Lab School teacher. We and our students miss her greatly. More information is available in the Foundation News section of this magazine.

It is inspiring to talk with individuals who have overcome personal hardship, yet remain positive and give of themselves to help others. Director of Student Activities and Organizations Yonna Pasch is just such an individual and is a remarkable role model for the students with whom she works. You can read her story in "Making an Impact."

Northwestern State is looking to expand existing programs and better serve the people of Louisiana. Our goal is to develop other strong academic programs that can help our graduates find the types of jobs that are available today. This progress would not be possible without your continued support of Northwestern State. Thank you for all you do to help this cherished institution continue moving forward.



*Dr. Chris Maggio,
1985, 1991
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement*

Dear Alumni,

An action-packed summer is underway on the NSU campus with Boys and Girls State, athletic and performing arts camps, dinner theatre and other programs that are ideal recruiting opportunities for us. These events provide prospective students and their parents with a small taste of what a special place Northwestern State is.

Much anticipation surrounds the new look for our mascot, Vic the Demon. A special introduction is in the works for Vic this fall and you will hear more about that from now through September. You can also mark your calendars for Homecoming weekend, Oct. 18-19, when we hope many of you will return for Friday's parade, golf tournament, pep rally and riverbank reunions prior to Saturday's 5K fun run, tailgating and football festivities. It promises to be an enjoyable weekend for all alumni and friends.

You will find in Alumni Columns snippets that outline professional and personal accomplishments from a diverse selection of graduates. If there is something you would like to share, please let us know. We are so proud of what our alumni are doing in their careers and communities.

As always, I thank you for your support of our alma mater and am grateful to be part of the Northwestern State family.

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HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE

Natchitoches native Andrew Field was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve in 2012 and earlier this year took command of the 2nd Battalion, 378th Regiment, in Monroe, the same battalion in which he commanded a company when he lived in Natchitoches. He most recently served in the 4th Brigade, 75th Division, in Birmingham, Ala. He lives in Oxford, Miss.



LTC Andrew Field

"It's a lot of fun to work with drill sergeants and I enjoy our mission of training America's newest soldiers," he said. "One of the company commanders in my battalion is Captain Ieisha Beasley, an NSU alumna who was a cadet when I taught ROTC there. She's a super officer who jumps on any mission she's assigned with energy and enthusiasm."

Field graduated from Natchitoches Central High School in 1989 and earned a degree in military science at Northwestern State in 1996. He earned a Master of Education degree at University of Mississippi in mathematics and science elementary education. He teaches middle school mathematics in the Oxford School District.

From 2004-2005 Field taught Army ROTC at Northwestern State and was a company commander in the 2nd Battalion, 378th Regiment, a basic training unit in Monroe. From there, he moved to the University of Mississippi in Oxford where he taught Army ROTC, freshman writing and criminal justice.

"I served in several instructor positions in the Army Reserve and settled as an observer controller/trainer in Birmingham," he said. "I got called up again and served on active duty for 16 months from 2008-2010 in Birmingham. That was a great job and I was entrusted with designing training exercises for the staffs of units who were deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan."

In 2009 he travelled with Vicksburg's 412th Theater Engineer Command into Afghanistan to explore what they would be doing on their upcoming deployment.

"It was a nebulous mission, with a lot of autonomy for the engineers and it was a really fun challenge to be able to design training that was significant and germane to their mission. I got to do the same thing the next year with the 116th Brigade Combat Team from the Idaho National Guard, traveling with them to Iraq. There I ran into several NSU alumni and took a picture that was in the Alumni Columns."

After the mobilization, Field returned to Ole Miss and took a job teaching mathematics in the elementary classroom for their School of Education.

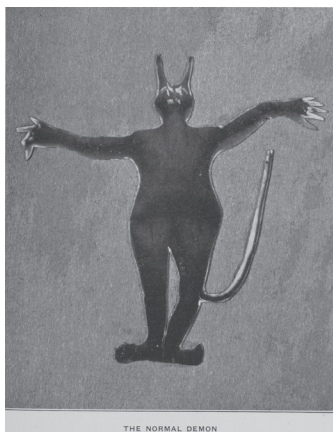
"I now teach seventh grade mathematics at Oxford Middle School, where I get to ride to school every day with my daughter Lydia," he said. "My wife Kate and I opened Oxford Homework Club and Tutoring this year. In addition to tutoring, we provide a club-like atmosphere with certified teachers where kids of all ages show up after school and do their homework."

"I loved my time at NSU. I made such great friends there and it's where I met my wife. I was a member of the Demon Battalion there, but did not complete the program" said Field, so he left ROTC and commissioned through OCS in the National Guard. "However, I often recall my time as a freshman and sophomore cadet there with great fondness. I'm still in contact with many of my ROTC buddies and most of them are still serving in some capacity."

Field was drawn to the military by the free college tuition.

"I had no idea I would love it so much," he said. "I credit the faculty in my ROTC program for contributing to my lifelong love of the military. Captain Tim Baham and Captain Art Milak, both of whom went on to be Lieutenant Colonels as well, were amazing professors and pushed me as hard as I had ever been pushed, harder even than at Basic Training. Those first two years of ROTC developed my physical fitness, soldier skills and leadership ability, so that I excelled everywhere I went in the Army. Those same skills and values transferred well into my teaching career as well. The Army's emphasis on work ethic, integrity and professionalism have made my teaching career successful and enjoyable."

Field and his wife, the former Kate Herrington who also attended Northwestern State, have three daughters, Evelyn, 18; Corinne, 15, and Lydia, 12. The girls, like their father and grandfather, Jim Field (1970), attended NSU Elementary Lab School as youngsters.



Vic's appearance has changed through the years. Photos clockwise from top left illustrate an evolution of costumes, from the earliest published drawing of the school's mascot to a 2012 photo.

Energetic as ever at age 90, Vic is getting a makeover

He leads the Demons onto the field to start every game, stars at pep rallies, dances on the sidelines, riles fans into a frenzy and poses for photos with admirers. For a 90-year-old Demon, Vic shows no signs of slowing down.

Through the decades, Vic's physical appearance ranged from sinis-

ter to comical to debonair but his dedication to rallying support for his teams was unwavering. This fall, he will debut a new look to match his ageless attitude, a makeover to keep him current with the times as an ambassador for the school and its athletic teams.

The new Vic will be revealed to the Northwestern State student body during a pep rally in September.

Vic's provenance begins with a school president who coincidentally shares his name. In 1923, President Victor L. Roy and Coach H. Lee Prather decided that Louisiana Normal, as NSU was then known, needed a mascot. A contest with a \$10 prize was held among students to select a mascot from among suggestions that included Sharks, Daredevils, Musketeers, Pelicans, Prather's Ground Hogs, Bloodhounds, Cyclops and Serpents. Roy, Dr. Jesse Hazzard and Professor John E. Guardia narrowed the submissions down to Demons and Braves, which were presented to the student body for vote. Their final choice was Demons. The

official winners were Aileen Ritter and Truett Scarborough.

"The 1924 Potpourri portrayed for the first time the Normal 'Demon' in a rather nondescript drawing," wrote Dr. Marietta LeBreton in *Northwestern State University of Louisiana 1884-1984: A History*. "Henceforth, the Demons took to the field and court in search of honor and glory for Old Normal."

A popular fight song in the 1930s and early 1940s fanned the flames of an old rivalry between Normal/Northwestern State and Louisiana Tech:

*Normal has a Demon with a long
and forked tail,
Tech has a Bulldog and the Demon
makes him wail,
When they get together, there's
bound to be a scrap.
Just watch the Normal Demon wipe
that Bulldog off the map.
Oh he may ramble, ramble, ramble
all around, in and out of town,
Yes he may ramble, ramble, ramble
till the Demon cuts him down.*

In 1984, another contest was sponsored by the Athletic Department to find a name for the Demon. Ray Carney, then director of external affairs, chose the name Vic -- short for Victory -- from over 300 entries.





See videos of Vic in action in the Lagniappe section of the online extended version of the Alumni Columns summer issue at northwesternalumni.com/lagniappe



Vic's most notorious moment

occurred in October 1992 when an end zone brawl with Chief Brave Spirit of Northeast Louisiana University, now University of Louisiana-Monroe, erupted during Northwestern State's Homecoming game. Midway through the second quarter, sparring between the two mascots escalated to an exchange of haymakers and a knock down before police separated the two. The crowd in the stands leapt into an uproar and footage of the fight made its way around the country, appearing on CNN Sports Tonight, ESPN College Gameday, NBC's Today Show and many other TV outlets. ESPN and other outlets declared Vic the clear winner. Scott Ostler of the *San Francisco Chronicle* called it "the fight of the year" and wrote, "Vic won a unanimous decision. It's been a long time since I've seen a fight where someone's head actually gets ripped off -- and yet he rallies to win!"

At year's end viewers voted the incident fourth on CNN's Plays of the Year. The mascots met again -- with much fanfare but no incident -- when NLU visited for a basketball game the following January.

Shane Clabaugh, the senior social work major who served as Vic, claimed victory.

"After he tore my head off, that was it. That goes against the code of ethics for mascots," Clabaugh later said. "I scored a takedown. I was mad because he knocked my head off. I wanted to take off his head -- his real one."

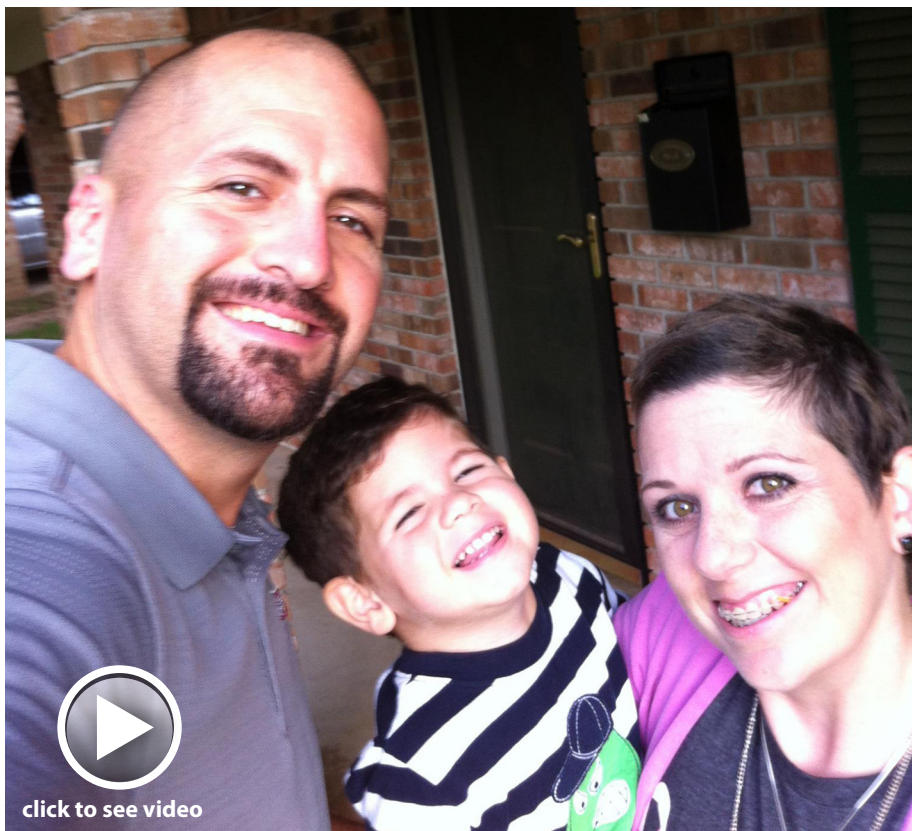
Even at age 90, Northwestern State's love for Vic endures, a unique mascot whose name is synonymous with winning.



click to see video

Making An Impact

Yonna Pasch doesn't let a little thing like cancer get her down



Yonna Pasch, right, with Alan and Amsden

“Passionate,” “out-going,” “determined,” “motivational” and “supportive” are words one hears over and over to describe Yonna Pasch, Northwestern State’s director of Student Activities and Organizations.

During a meeting of the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities earlier this year, Pasch was recognized with the establishment of an award in her honor. She was the inaugural recipient of the Yonna Pasch Heart of APCA Award to recognize her drive and determination in the field of higher education. It also acknowledges her triumph over cancer and her positive influence on others.

“The award was created by the APCA to celebrate Yonna’s drive and determination during her battle with breast cancer,” said Jason Leader, marketing coordinator for APCA. “Yonna is a dedicated fan of the APCA and touched many hearts through sharing her journey. The award was named in her honor and will be given to future recipients that face a major hurdle in their lives and overcome it with great drive and determination.”

Pasch has been director of Student Activities and Organizations for five years and a member of Northwestern State’s staff since 2003. She was previously assistant director of Student Activities for Greek Life, Leadership Development and Organizations and associate director of Student Activities and Organizations. She earned a bachelor’s degree in hospitality management and tourism in 2000 and a master’s in student personnel services at Northwestern State in 2003. A native of Pine Prairie, she is married to Alan Pasch, (2001, 2006) who is director of University Facility Use and Student Union. Their son Amsden is 3.

Pasch was diagnosed in December 2011 with stage 2 infiltrating ductal carcinoma. Following a lumpectomy, she went through treatment to decrease the chance of the cancer returning.

Pasch did not know about the Heart of APCA Award. Michael Ryan Stephenson, executive director of Northwestern State’s Up ‘til Dawn program and Pasch’s close friend, was contacted beforehand and asked to prepare a slideshow of pictures

and a few words to say. He and Jessica Lambert of APCA presented the award, which included a video of pictures of Pasch’s journey set to Martina McBride’s “I’m Gonna Love You Through It.”

“When they called me up to the stage to speak, she knew something was up. Then the tears started,” Stephenson said.

“It was truly an emotional time at the conference,” Pasch said. “This award truly validated that the work that I do does mean something. I love what I do at NSU and with my student programmers. I wasn’t going to let a little thing like cancer to stop me. To be honest, I think that’s a main reason why I did so well. I had something to look forward to after treatment: a great working environment, awesome students and a career that I know changes people’s lives.”

“Yonna represents the heart of APCA, an organization that is committed to impacting the lives of students, advisors, military, campus entertainers and the community. APCA is involved in numerous charitable efforts through the APCA Serves program,” Leader said.

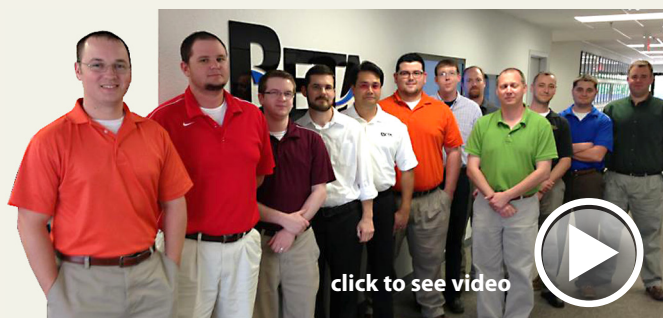
“My journey has been an open book,” Pasch said. “I want to share with as many people about what I went through and to inspire people to try live a healthy lifestyle.”

“One of the most inspiring things that I’ve observed is the fact that when she was undergoing treatment, she never missed a day of work due to not feeling well,” Stephenson said. “She missed a few hours here and there because of appointments but she never took a sick day to be away from school. I strongly believe that being a mentor to many students and advising so many wonderful organizations were all contributions to winning her battle against breast cancer at such a young age. Because she is so supportive and inspirational to her students, she had a huge support system throughout her journey.”

“I have known Yonna for many years,” Leader said. “Yonna has always been an upbeat and positive person. As advisors with APCA, we were founders of the Sigma Lambda Honor Society

continued on page 5

Campus News



Graduates of IET/EET talk about the NSU program

The Department of Engineering Technology hosted business leaders from northwest and central Louisiana, including a visit to Beta Industries in Pineville. From left are Jonathan Spurgeon, Jacob Steelman, Curtis Long, Chris Wilson, Andy Andersen, Kyle Arnold, Kevin Smith, Cody Borders, Max Price, Jesse Dubois, Corey Eddington and Trinity Deville. Listen to what graduates of Industrial Engineering Technology and Electrical Engineering Technology have to say about Northwestern State.

'Beasts of the Southern Wild' director and producer screen movie

The director and producers of the Academy Award-nominated film "Beasts of the Southern Wild" offered a screening in the Friedman Student Union Ballroom at Northwestern State this past April. Director BenhZeitlin and producers Josh Penn and Dan Janvey presented the film and answer questions after the screening. The event was sponsored by Northwestern State's Department of Language and Communication and was funded by a grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents.



click to see video

Pasch continued from page 4

which is an arm of APCA. Yonna has always had great ideas and the energy to carry out those ideas. When she announced her battle with cancer and shared her journey with all of us, we were humbled by her strength and determination. We followed every blog and update and cheered her on from afar. Yonna has been an inspiration to me and the entire APCA family. *Geaux Yeaux!*"

Stephenson said Pasch is the most hard-working individual he's ever met and admires her dedication to her students and the organizations that she advises.

"She devotes so much of her time to supporting and encouraging students," he said. "She inspires students to think on their own and generate new, innovative and creative ideas. If her students are hosting an event after hours, you bet she will be there to support and help. I think this type of action speaks for itself.

"This past year and a half has truly changed my perspective on everything," Pasch said. "Surviving the cancer journey is one part of my life that I will never forget. When something so challenging is presented you never know how you are going to react, how

your body will be affected or how your friends and family will cope with such disturbing news. I was very fortunate that I had a strong support system of friends, family and NSU family.

"When I began this journey I told my doctors that I wanted to do my best to live my life as I knew it. Despite the aggressive treatment and the two research studies I was involved in, I was able to live up to my goal. I had treatment on one day, received my neulasta shot the next day and still managed to have tennis lessons the same day. The only days I missed from work were the days I had treatment. I was very lucky. I have always been the person that advocates for cancer research, treatment and helping families affected by cancer. I've been a longtime supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the American Cancer Society and the Susan G. Komen foundation. I never really thought I would be the one having to utilize some of the resources that I donated my time and money to for so long. It has strengthened my hope that the good that these organizations and other organizations are doing in terms of cancer research will one day find a cure."

SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming 2013

festivities will be

► Oct. 18-19 ◀

Friday's activities will include the annual golf tournament, Homecoming parade and pep rally with reunions and events planned around a downtown Boogie on the Bricks.

Saturday will begin with the Homecoming 5K fun run, followed by departmental and organizational reunions, tailgating and the football game against Southeastern Louisiana University.

To stay up to date, visit nsula.edu, northwesternalumni.com or nsudemons.com.

Spotlights



Rapides Regional Medical Center recognized registered nurse **Tessa Ratcliff** with The Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses earlier this year. The award, presented in collaboration with the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) is part of the Daisy Foundation's program to recognize the efforts nurses perform every day.

Ratcliff, BSN RN, is a 2008 graduate of Northwestern State University's College of Nursing and Allied Health. She works in the medical/surgical oncology unit. Ratcliff's nomination included a description of her "uncompromising commitment to compassionate, quality patient care, dedication to providing extraordinary service with each opportunity and commitment to enhancing quality of life. respect for everyone," according to Unit Manager Joan Dauzat, RN, who nominated Ratcliff for the award.

Three times annually, a nurse is selected to receive the Daisy Award from nominations submitted by staff at Rapides Regional Medical Center. At a presentation given in front of the nurse's colleagues, physicians, patients and visitors, the honoree receives a certificate commending her or him for being an extraordinary nurse. The honoree also receives a sculpture entitled "A Healer's Touch," hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Africa.

Ashley Briley Johnson (2007), branch manager for Manpower in Ruston, was named to ManpowerGroup's Circle of Stars, a national recognition program that honors high performing sales people. She was among the top sales people in ManpowerGroup's North American organization in 2012

and earned a place at the Circle of Stars recognition event held in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Johnson joined Manpower in 2008 and has five years experience in the HR and Staffing industry. She earned a degree in hospitality management and tourism at Northwestern State. Last year, she was named the 2012 Ruston-Lincoln Parish Young Business Person of the Year. She lives in Calhoun with her husband Jason.

Clarence Williams (1982) was named new principal of Wakeland High School in Frisco, Texas. Williams came to the Frisco school district in 2009 and had previously been an assistant principal in Richardson and a teacher in Dallas. He has a bachelor's degree from Northwestern State University and a master's from Texas A&M Commerce.

Walt Walker was promoted to vice president/finance and administration of Yorktown Systems Group Inc., following a highly lauded performance with the company over the last four years. Walker is now responsible for managing Yorktown's finances and leading the Yorktown Corporate staff. The company is a service disabled veteran owned small business (SDVOSB).

Walker has had a long career in both the Army and in the DoD industry. He graduated from Northwestern State University in 1980 with a B.A. in government. He then joined the Army as an Army field artillery officer and his career history includes time spent as a comptroller, a liaison officer to the Turkish Army and a battery commander, among numerous other essential positions.

Walker's contribution to the Army continued as he supported TRADOC Capability Manager-Live as a senior training analyst for Yorktown at Fort Eustis. Walker also serves as a military and financial adviser to a non-profit organization focused on creating and promoting programs to assist veterans.

Josh Jorgensen was named the assistant athletic director of external affairs at Texas A & M University-Com-

merce. Under this position, Jorgensen will handle all of the A&M-Commerce Athletics marketing, promotional and game management efforts, as well as overseeing the Lions' social media platforms. Earlier in his career, Jorgensen was the director of ticketing at Northwestern State University. Jorgensen earned his degree in sports management from Nebraska-Wesleyan University in 2003, followed by his master's degree in sport administration from Northwestern State in 2011. He married his wife, Angela, in 2009 and the couple has one son, Duke, born in 2011.

Jillian Corder joined Monroe's KNOE 8 News Team as a reporter in June 2012 directly after graduating from Northwestern State University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism. While at NSU, Jillian was a reporter and anchor for NSU 22 News, host of the University President's interview show "Where Great Things Happen," and a reporter for the student-run radio station on campus.

Outside the world of journalism, Jillian also loves to sing, volunteer, and travel to any destination with a coastline.

Jennifer Gray Reeves (2002) is now the weekend morning meteorologist at NBC 6 South Florida in Miami. She previously worked at that station from 2005-07. She has been a meteorologist for the past decade. During that time, she has chased everything from hurricanes to tornadoes to flash floods. She was working in Louisiana during hurricane Katrina and covered several storms in south Florida including Ike, Gustav and Fay, making appearances on The Weather Channel and MSNBC.

At Northwestern State she earned a degree in broadcast journalism and a minor in Spanish. She earned her meteorology and geosciences degrees from Mississippi State University and interned in New York City at ABC's Good Morning America. She then returned to the south to begin her television career and has worked in Beaumont, Texas, Shreveport and Miami. She appears on NBC 6's South

Briggs swim draws Cenla alumni to After Hour

Reed Perilloux (1966) of Colfax and Dr. Harry Briggs greeted each other with a hearty “Semper Fi” following Briggs’ annual birthday swim in Kincaid Lake. Briggs, a political science professor at NSU’s Leesville-Fort Polk campus, stages the annual 2-mile swim to raise funds for the Dora Douglas Briggs Nursing and Radiologic Sciences Endowed Scholarship at Northwestern State’s Cenla campus. Briggs completed the swim to commemorate his 92nd birthday, which was held in conjunction with the Cenla Alumni After Hours at Tunk’s Cypress Inn.

Perilloux, an ex-Marine, was head basketball and baseball coach at Colfax High for 20 years, compiling a record of 768-261 (74.6 winning percentage) on the hardcourt, even though he never played a day of basketball in his life. He won two state championships (1962-63), guided his teams to the state semifinals twice more (1955-56) and coached two other teams as far as the quarterfinals. His teams won seven district titles. In 1962, he was named Coach of the Year by the LSWA and was runner-up for that honor in 1963. He also was the winning coach in the 1963 LHSAA All-Star game.

In 1958, he started the Grant Parish youth baseball and softball league and

helped Colfax get its first lighted baseball field. In 2006, Perilloux was inducted into the Louisiana High School Athletic Association Coaches Hall of Fame. Perilloux also served four years in the LHSAA executive committee as



Reed Perilloux (1966) and Dr. Harry Briggs

representative of the state Education Department, was on the founding board and the first manager of the Pecan Festival and was an administrative assistant for Sheriff L.R. “Pop” Hataway following his retirement as principal of Grant High School.

Briggs has completed numerous swims to raise funds to support Northwestern State scholarships. Last year, he was recognized for establishing a generous planned gift annuity to benefit Northwestern State tennis athletes, a tennis complex project and scholarships to aid NSU’s nursing and radiologic sciences programs in Alexandria. Known since the 1950s as “The Paddlin’ Professor,” Briggs has over the years initiated several scholarship endowments to benefit current and future students at Northwestern.

Briggs is a member of the International Swimming Hall of Fame for his distance swimming exploits around the world as a young man and has not stopped challenging himself. In addition to his numerous swimming accomplishments, Briggs is a Marine Corps veteran of World War II battles in the Pacific Theatre at Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. He has climbed the Matterhorn, worked in Alaska and is a native New Englander and graduate of Tufts University, where he also has created scholarship endowments. As a sportswriter and sportscaster, he traveled to Mexico and Cuba and interviewed luminaries such as Jackie Robinson, Ted Williams and Muhammad Ali.

Spotlights continued from page 2

Florida Today Weekend every Saturday and Sunday morning.

The Louisiana native loves spending her free time on the water, fishing, or spending time with her husband on the docks at his boat rental business. She also loves hanging out with her twin stepdaughters, Madison and Mackenzie.

Indiana University selected **Lesa Hatley Major** (1987) as interim dean of the School of Journalism. She previously served as the department’s senior associate dean. Hatley Major joined the IU School of Journalism in 2006 and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses. Before enter-

ing academia, she worked in radio and television news as a general reporter, health reporter, assistant news director and anchor.

In 2006, she earned her Ph.D. in mass communication and public affairs from Louisiana State University, where she taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the Manship School of Mass Communication. She also has taught journalism and counseling courses at Northwestern State University in Louisiana, where she earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in journalism.

Her research focuses on health communication and public policy and she has studied efforts to strengthen public support for policy changes

regarding lung cancer, obesity and mental health. She also has researched news messages about AIDS for African-American audiences and creating public support for AIDS interventions.

She is the author of numerous articles and is a frequent presenter at conferences, often with the doctoral students she mentors. She also advised the Ernie Pyle Scholars Class of 2012.

See more Spotlight stories in the Lagniappe section of the online extended version of the Alumni Columns summer issue at northwesternalumni.com/lagniappe

Fraternity memorabilia now on exhibit at national headquarters

A small piece of Northwestern State University's history is now on permanent display at Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity National Headquarters in Charlotte, N.C. One of the only known surviving membership badges of Phi Kappa Nu Fraternity, the predecessor of the Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, was recently added to the collection at the Eldred J. Harman Museum. The jeweled badge is prominently displayed along with other local fraternities that were absorbed by Pi Kappa Phi National Fraternity.

Pi Kappa Nu was organized at Louisiana State Normal College, now Northwestern State University, on Oct. 17, 1929, and grew to become one of the school's largest and most involved organizations. Its members later decided to seek the benefits of joining a national fraternity and on Sept. 21, 1956, the Beta Omicron Chapter was installed as the 63rd chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity.

The badge belonged to the late John Levy Frederick (1955), a member of Phi Kappa Nu and later one of the early members of the Beta Omicron Chapter. Placing the pin in the Harman Museum was the work of Beta Omicron Chapter Alumni Association board member Shayne Creppel (2010). Frederick's widow, Jan, gave the badge to Creppel after having a conversation about the Fraternity's history. It was first presented the chapter at the 2011 Founders' Day banquet and was placed in the care of Pi Kappa Phi Headquarters later in 2012.

"I was at her home and we were talking about Pi Kapp and



Jan Frederick, right, presented her late husband's fraternity badge to Shane Creppel, a member of his chapter's alumni association.

she just came out and asked me if I would like her husband's badge," Creppel said. "When she came back with it -- she knew exactly where it was -- it actually wasn't his Pi Kapp badge, but his Phi Kappa Nu badge. We have looked for one for years and none of the Pi Kapp Founding Fathers still had theirs. It was really remarkable that I was able to obtain one simply because we had a conversation about something that her husband and I were a part of."

John Frederick died in June 2001, at the age of 67. After graduating from Northwestern State College, he entered the Army and served in the Korean War. Until his death, he was the owner of Kaffie-Frederick General Mercantile, the oldest continuously operated business in Natchitoches.

Business alum awards leadership scholarships

Four members of Northwestern State University's chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity were recognized during the spring semester for leadership on campus and in the community during the sixth annual Beta Omicron "Extra Mile" Scholarship Banquet. Jake Bryan of Pollock, Sean Austin of DeRidder, Kolt Kays of Zwolle and Scott Mayeaux of Alexandria are recipients of the 2013 awards established by Pi Kappa Phi alumnus and business executive David D. Morgan Sr. (1973), who created the program to inspire students to pursue excellence in academics, campus and chapter leadership, service and employment.

The recipients of the "Extra Mile" Scholarships were awarded \$3,800. Recipients must be actively involved in organizations other than Pi Kappa Phi, must be a sophomore, junior or senior member of Beta Omicron and maintain a grade point average of 2.75 or higher.

Morgan, an entrepreneur, insurance executive and leader within his industry and fraternity, funds the scholarship program.

Recipients are selected through a rigorous application process that awards points for campus and chapter leadership, grades, employment and a series of essay questions. This program seeks to recognize the effort and seriousness that a student displays in pursuit of academic excellence. Just as important as a student's scholastic prowess, however, is their commitment to applying themselves in the classroom and in



Members of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity named 2013 David D. Morgan "Extra Mile" Scholars were, from left, Jake Bryan of Pollock, Sean Austin of DeRidder, Kolt Kays of Zwolle, Scott Mayeaux of Alexandria with David Morgan Sr. The awards were presented April 14 during the Beta Omicron Chapter banquet.

life outside of the classroom by going the extra mile.

Robert G. Crew (1965, 1968) was named Beta Omicron Alumnus of the Year for personal achievement, outstanding service to the Fraternity and community, involvement in the life of the university, and serving as a model for lifelong brotherhood.

KA Gamma Psi Chapter celebrates 50 years at Northwestern

click to see video



Hundreds of members of Gamma Psi Chapter of Kappa Alpha, alumni and friends attended the chapter's golden anniversary celebration in March, a weekend of receptions and reunions that included a lawn party at Cherokee Plantation, pictured above; an open house at the KA House, below left; a memorial service and the Old South Ball. Pictured at the Old South Ball are nine of the 15 original members of the Gamma Psi chapter, seated from left, Andy Pontz, Joe Traigle, Richard Clark and Clark Aldridge. Standing are Terry Finley, Gary Pittman, Leonard Blanton, Ronnie Guillot and Kenny Guillot. More photos from the reunion weekend can be found in the Lagniappe section of Alumni Columns. Gamma Psi members also planted a river birch on campus to commemorate the chapter's 50th anniversary.



See more KA photos in the Lagniappe section of the online extended version of the Alumni Columns summer issue at northwesternalumni.com/lagniappe

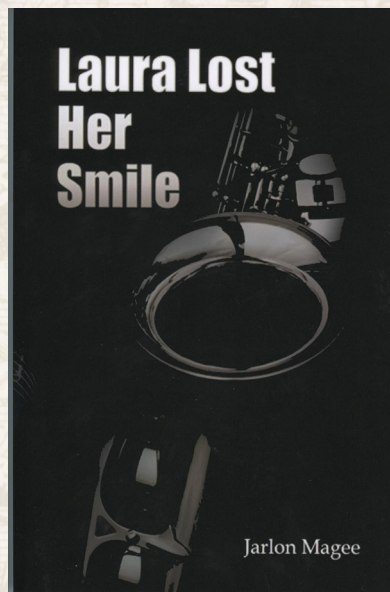


From left are faculty member Kelli Haynes (1995) with Brandy Bruce and Alisha Trisler, who both earned their bachelors in 2004 and master's degrees in 2011.

Radiologic Science reunion

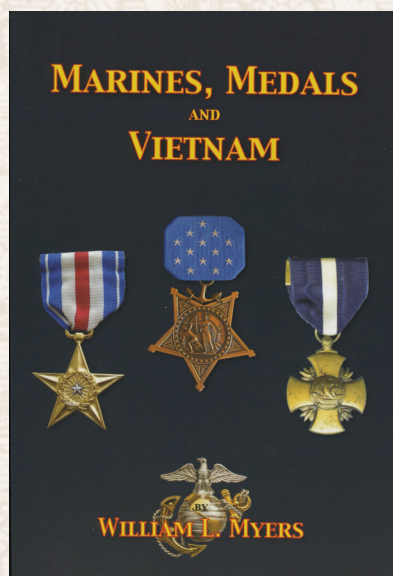
Northwestern State University's radiologic sciences program commemorated its 40th anniversary with a reunion dinner in Shreveport. NSU's radiologic sciences program is part of the university's College of Nursing and Allied Health with degrees that include a bachelor of science in radiologic sciences and a master of science in radiologic sciences with concentration options in radiologic science education and radiologic science administration. The master's program has both traditional and on-line delivery options available. More than 500 students have earned degrees through the program.

On the Bookshelf



Laura Lost Her Smile by Jarlon Magee (1964) This thriller depicts a jazz musician and his chance meeting with a dancer who disappears a short time later. The mystery involves NYPD, Interpol, CIA and FBI agents and Mexican Federales. The story reminds us that the human journey is never-ending. Cover art by Jason Oberle (2000).

Magee's published work includes *A Woman Like That* and *Travel in Fear*. He and his wife Joanie live in Dallas.



Marines, Medals and Vietnam by William L. Myers (1969) This is a collection of accounts describe the fear, frustration and chaos that Marines endured during their service in Vietnam, along with lists of those who were awarded Medals of Honor, Navy Crosses and Silver Stars and some photos. The book is Myers' tribute to all U.S. Marines who served in the prolonged and socially divisive Vietnam War.

Myers is a Marine Corp veteran. He penned a previous book, *Honor the Warrior: The United States Marine Corps in Vietnam*. He lives in Milton.



In Memory

- 1931 – Mary Ivey, Sept. 16, 2008
- 1933 - Myrtle Corbett Jouett, Nov. 20, 2012, Longview, Texas
- 1941 - Grace Bullock Gentry, May 7, 2013, Natchitoches
- 1949 – Benjamin Georfe Crocker, March 12, 2013, Arlington, Texas
- 1951 – Marilyn Finley Gaston, May 15, 2013, Duncanville, Texas
- 1952 – Dr. Billy E. McCormack, May, 31, 2013, Shreveport
- 1955, 1961 – Doyle Wayne Durr, Feb. 20, 2013, Lake Charles
- 1955 – Floyd L. Ellerman, Nov. 13, 2012, Choudrant
- 1960 – Jeanne Elaine Andrepont Essmeier, Aug. 31, 2012, St. Martinville
- 1968 – Joe Germany, Nov. 6, 2012, Marrero
- 1972 – Rev. G. Stanley Lewis, Feb. 26, 2012, Natchitoches
- 1974 – Robert W. Pierson, April 24, 2013, Natchitoches
- 1975 – James Wayne Bolton, Feb. 24, 2013, Bossier City
- 1979 – Frankie Rachal McClendon, Feb. 28, 2013, Gorum
- 1986 - Marla Coutee Thurman, April 2, 2013, Shreveport
- Suzanne Wimberly Crews, April 20, 2013, Natchitoches

Registrar's Office staff creates scholarship to honor McClung

A scholarship honoring the memory of Melinda Martin McClung (1979) has been established at Northwestern State University by McClung's co-workers in the university's Registrar's Office. McClung was a Northwestern State alumna and worked in the Registrar's Office for over 22 years. She was killed in a traffic accident on March 24.

"Among her many jobs, Melinda evaluated all transcripts that came in from other colleges and also helped determine eligibility of college athletes," said Registrar Lillie Frazier Bell. "She helped many students qualify for graduation through her knowledge and expertise in evaluation of transfer credits. She was a dedicated and conscientious employee and a loving mother of her two sons, Joseph and Michael."

The Melinda Martin McClung Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a student transferring into Northwestern State with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better.

McClung's husband, Phillip McClung



Melinda Martin McClung

(1981), is a popular and respected teacher at NSU Middle Lab School. Their son Joseph plans to attend Northwestern State this fall.

McClung's colleagues initiated the scholarship in recognition of their friend's dedication to her family, her coworkers and the Northwestern State students she helped. McClung was instrumental in developing administrative policies and procedures on transfer credit, serving as the univer-

sity liaison with other institutions and working tirelessly with members of the Louisiana Board of Regents in the development of transfer credit matrix systems.

"Melinda was a long-time, devoted member of the university family and my dear friend," said Barbara Prescott, assistant to the registrar. "The expertise she developed in her years of service made her the ultimate transfer credit 'go to' person. She will be greatly missed by all."

"Melinda always tried to put the student first," said Yvette Williams, associate registrar for records. "She was compassionate towards the students and understood their needs when transferring to NSU. She was always honest and helpful."

Contributions to the scholarship can be made payable to the NSU Foundation and mailed to 535 University Parkway, Natchitoches, La., 71497. A notation should be made that the donation is for the Melinda Martin McClung Scholarship.

Dill relatives present scholarship to future educator

Glen Weideman of Arlington, Texas, is the recipient of the Dill Family Perseverance Award in Education, a financial award that benefits a Northwestern State University senior pursuing a degree through the university's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development. The award was established by three generations of the Dill family in memory of four women -- three sisters and their niece -- who studied elementary education at Louisiana Normal College, as Northwestern State was known until 1944. The award also honors the parents and siblings of the Normal graduates, whose family roots are in Ascension Parish. The recipient must maintain a 2.6 or better grade point average, possess a strong desire to be a successful teacher and have demonstrated overcoming hardship to pursue their degree.



From left are family members Jane Alexander, Mary Hillery, Jack Lewis, Dr. Vickie Gentry, dean of the College; Weideman, his mother Tanya Terrell-Weideman, Marilyn Williams, Beverly Lewis and Richard Lewis.

Natchitoches student first recipient of Issac Memorial Scholarship

Ryan Keith Lacey, center, was selected first recipient of the Ricky Issac, Jr. Memorial Scholarship for Criminal Justice at Northwestern State University. Lacey, a criminal justice major, is a member of the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Department. Lacey received the scholarship from Joe Morris, head of the Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Science, left, and Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Victor Jones. The scholarship was established to honor the legacy of Issac (2011), an alumnus of NSU's criminal justice program, and a Natchitoches Parish sheriff's deputy at the time of his death in December. The scholarship encourages students who are working toward their degree to use Issac's example and legacy as a model for their own future.



Dorothy Prestridge Turner Scholarship honors nurse who mentored many

A scholarship to benefit a freshman nursing student has been established at Northwestern State University to honor the memory of Dorothy Prestridge Turner, who was a mentor to many young nursing students during her long career.

Robert Leonard Turner Jr. of Shreveport established the nursing scholarship in memory of his late wife with preference given to a student from Buckeye High School, then open to any student from central Louisiana. The recipient of the one-year award must maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

Mrs. Turner, 72, passed away Feb. 21 at Overton Brooks V.A. Medical Center after a lengthy illness. She was a native of Libuse and resident of Shreveport since 1971. She was retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves with the rank of major.

Turner was a member of the Critical Care Nurses Association and served on several professional boards. She was passionate about the field of nursing and maintained a positive attitude during her final illness, her husband said.

From 1961-64, Turner attended the Mather School of Nursing in New Orleans where she earned a baccalaureate degree before she joined the Air Force and was stationed in San Antonio.

Turner served on active duty with the Air Force for two years before becoming a reservist and working as a flight nurse out of Barksdale Air Force Base. During that time, she earned her bachelor's (1969) and master's (1975) degrees in

nursing at Northwestern State's Shreveport nursing campus. Later, during the 26 years she served as Overton Brooks V.A. Medical Center, she also completed nurse practitioner requirements through the V.A.

Robert Turner said offering the scholarship to a first year student was important to his late wife because the first year "can be a make or break year." Turner's sister, Inez Brown, agreed.

"During her first year of school, she had a hard time, being away from home," Brown said. "She believed the first year was a critical year for a student and if they got a good start they would stay with it." Brown described her sister as a dedicated nurse and a strong-willed person, which helped her overcome obstacles.

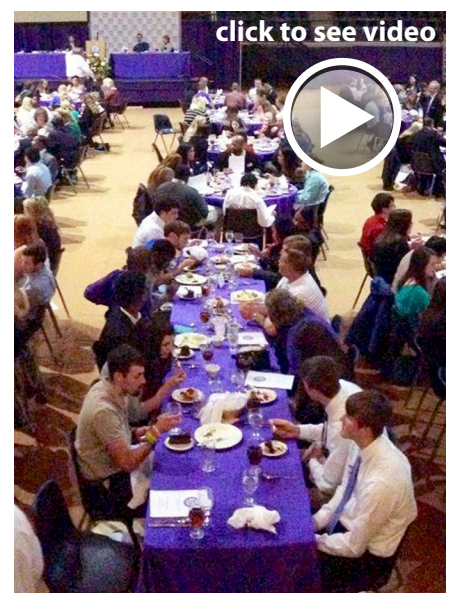
"Many of those who worked with her in ICU at the V.A. and those she helped train came to us during her illness and said how much she helped them, in her teaching, in her department and in the compassion she had for patients," Brown said. "She had taken many of those young ones under her wing. We heard so many things about her. She helped a lot of people along the way. She was a very giving person."

For more information on contributing to the Dorothy Prestridge Turner Scholarship, contact the Northwestern State University Foundation at (318) 357-4414. For information on NSU's College of Nursing and Allied Health visit nursing.nsula.edu.

Record number at Scholarship Banquet



The annual Northwestern State University Foundation Banquet is an opportunity for scholarship recipients to meet and interact with individuals who support the Foundation. The Foundation awarded a record number of scholarships last year.





Demon basketball coach Mike McConathy, flanked by NSU athletics director Greg Burke and members of the NSU team, posed with a commemorative banner and cake presented March 9 just after a landmark victory at Prather Coliseum. Capturing the final regular-season game of 2013 moved McConathy atop the Louisiana men's college basketball coaching career victories list with 573 wins in 14 seasons with NSU after 16 years at Bossier Parish Community College. It was part of a fabulous Demon Basketball Centennial Celebration day at the arena, one of the highlights of a remarkable season for the team. Northwestern went on to capture the Southland Conference Tournament championship with a nationally-televised triumph in Katy, Texas, and advanced to its third NCAA Tournament appearance, waging quite a battle for three quarters of the game with Southeastern Conference champion Florida. The 2012-13 Demons finished with the second-most wins in a season (23) in school history, and ranked among the nation's top 100 teams in 11 NCAA statistical categories, including second nationally in scoring (at 80 points per game) and sixth in steals per game (9.8 per game).

We've won 3 in 3!

Yes, your NSU Athletics program is on a roll after winning three NCAA Tournament berths in three straight months - Demon basketball (March), Lady Demon tennis (April) and Lady Demon softball (May). No other Louisiana university or Southland Conference member can match that impressive string of NCAA championship qualification this past 2012-13 year.

A high quality coaching staff and outstanding support staff, surrounded by a tremendous university and community, provides every reason for continued optimism. Practically every team is poised to be successful next year and at the same time, NSU student-athletes will continue to have a high graduation rate (72% average over past five years) and make citizenship a priority. By the way, football senior John Shaughnessy became the fifth NSU student-athlete in six years to win the Southland Conference's Citizenship Award.

Very generous contributors to the Demon Victory Fund (DVF) have certainly ignited this recent wave of success, yet we can't be satisfied with what has been accomplished of late. We may not have the biggest budget or be located in the largest market but that should not be a deterrent to

success. Continuing to sell season tickets and secure donations to the DVF, which can be done with ease on a credit card, NSU payroll deduction, or through a bank draft, are all easy ways to make a difference.

What we've recently accomplished has been on the strength of less than 1,000 DVF donors. That's a small fraction of the number of NSU Alumni who receive this magazine. Imagine what we might do if 1,000 more alumni gave us \$10 a month? Let's do "more with more" instead of "more with less!" I'm humbly asking you to consider joining our team with, at least, a very modest contribution to support our wonderful student-athletes and their outstanding coaches.

Please visit our NSUDemons.com website and click on the "Donate" button, or call us at (318) 357-5251, to get on board. We're proud of "3 in 3" this spring and are determined to continue making you proud in the months and years ahead.

Fork' Em, Demons!
Greg Burke, Director of Athletics





click to see video

NCAA Tournament excitement continued for Northwestern when the Lady Demon tennis team won the Southland Conference Tournament in late April, earning a berth in the NCAA Team Championships May 10. They defeated Stephen F. Austin, regular-season champion Southeastern Louisiana and second-seeded Texas A&M-Corpus Christi April 26-28 in Beaumont, Texas, to earn the program's second NCAA Team Championships appearance in four years. NSU fell in NCAA competition to No. 9-ranked Ala-

bama in Tuscaloosa as senior captain Andrea Nedorostova concluded her career as the school record-holder in career doubles wins and the only player on both NCAA Tournament teams. The summa cum laude graduate had to miss the May 10 commencement exercises but watched online at nsula.edu, and was presented her diploma by coach Patric DuBois with her parents and teammates alongside in Tuscaloosa as NSU President Dr. Randall Webb recognized her back in Natchitoches.



click to see video



As the NSU softball team captured the Southland Conference Tournament championship

May 9-11, they did so at a just-completed Lady Demon Softball Complex. A new grandstand, concession stand and press box made its debut as teams from Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana competed for an NCAA Tournament berth. The improvements increased seating capacity including prime chairback seating with the grandstand partially covered. The \$450,000 project has been privately funded through the NSU Athletic Association with naming rights for chairbacks and other contributions and naming opportunities still available as the program now turns toward preparing for the 2014 season.

NORTHWESTERN STATETM

2013 Demon Football Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Thur.	Aug. 29	at Missouri State	Springfield, MO	6:00
SAT.	SEPT. 7	SOUTHERN	NATCHITOCHES	6:00
Sat.	Sept. 14	at Cincinnati	Cincinnati, OH	6:00
Sat.	Sept. 21	at Alabama-Birmingham	Birmingham, AL	2:00
SAT.	SEPT. 28	LANGSTON	NATCHITOCHES	6:00
Sat	Oct. 5	OPEN		
Sat.	Oct. 12	* at Nicholls	Thibodaux	3:00
SAT.	OCT. 19	* SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA (HOMECOMING)	NATCHITOCHES	6:00
Sat.	Oct. 26	* at Sam Houston State	Huntsville, TX	2:00
SAT.	NOV. 2	* CENTRAL ARKANSAS	NATCHITOCHES	7:00
SAT.	NOV. 9	* LAMAR	NATCHITOCHES	3:00
Sat.	Nov. 16	* at McNeese State	Lake Charles	7:00
SAT.	NOV. 23	* STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	NATCHITOCHES	3:00

Houston-area residents can make plans to attend a tailgate party prior to the Northwestern State-Sam Houston football game in Huntsville, Texas, on Saturday, Oct. 26. More details will be available as plans are finalized. Check northwesternalumni.com or call (318) 357-4414 for information.

Save the Date!



**2013 ATHLETIC
SCHOLARSHIP
AUCTION**

NSUDemons.com

August 24, 2013 | 5:00 p.m. | Prather Coliseum

If you have a unique auction item that you would like to donate, call us at 318.357.5251.

The 13th Biennial Northwestern State University Athletic Scholarship Auction will be held Saturday, Aug. 24 in Prather Coliseum. This fund raising event benefits the NSU Athletic Association/Demon Victory Fund and, in particular, NSU's 350-plus student-athletes. The doors will open at 5 p.m. for a social hour, with dinner and a live auction to follow. There will be silent auctions going on through the evening with the event ending at 9 p.m. This event is open to the public with prices at \$125 per couple, \$500 per table of eight, or \$1,000 for a VIP table of 10 which includes front row seating (limited amount available). For more information or reservations, call Patric DuBois at (318) 357-5001 or Greg Burke at (318) 357-5251. Patrons are also invited to donate unique items or services for fund raising by calling DuBois.



Click this to see a video of the Demon Basketball 100th Anniversary Highlights

See more Athletic stories in the Lagniappe section of the online extended version of the Alumni Columns summer issue at northwesternalumni.com/lagniappe

Looking Back



Purple Jackets from 1951 were, top row from left, Myrtle Ann Babin, Mary Beth Buckley, Dorothy S. Carley, Katherin Fay Dheil and Mary Alice Driscoll. On the second row are Gloria H. Ebarb, Eunice Eden, Evelyn J. Gandy, Louise E. Harris and Marna Hynum. On the third row are Louisa L. Johnson, Pat Leone, Ann Montgomery, Bessie Morgan and Joy Norris. On the bottom row are Ruby A. Norsworthy, Jeanette Pace and Dolores Sutherland.

1951 grad recalls honor of wearing the Purple Jacket

Dorothy Scott Carley graduated from Northwestern State College in 1951 and recently reminisced about the four years she spent at Northwestern, recalling special memories of campus life with the honor of being a Purple Jacket ranking at the top. She earned a degree in education. Carley married Richard L. Carley, a 1952 graduate.

"Highlights of the very first year as a Demon in 1947 included joining the student body outside in the sunshine in what was called a 'strike' – I have no idea the purpose or resolution - but thought 'if this is college, wow, sure is exciting!' Delta Sigma Epsilon Sorority offered great friendships, as did the B.S.U. organization. The Normal lifestyle was that you spoke to everyone you met on campus—one of the finest habits I learned and continue today.

"The hoped for invitation to the Purple Jacket organization was what I dreamed of. The girls wearing those outstanding jackets were respected and admired. They were our helpers as we registered, guided us as we searched for a classroom, were always showing up with a smile when you needed a 'friend' or a word of encouragement. We met just off campus at Miss Catherine Winters home -- what an inspiration she was -- and what 'ladies' we portrayed!

"Another highlight was the privilege of doing my student teaching under the direction of Miss Ruth Bruner in the Business Department in the Clerk Typist Military program, teaching typing, filing, law, etc. to some 800 or so Air Force

men. Then, due to a vacancy in the Business Department, I taught freshmen students for a short period of time under Mr. Noble Morrison, head of the department, with my final great honor of being secretary to the Dean of Women, Mrs. Perle Devereux David. This brings us to 1952 and the graduation of my husband. At that time we left Natchitoches for his induction into the U.S. Army for a tour of duty during the Korean War.

"Coming to Northwestern was a family tradition. I was following in the footsteps of my older brothers who had attended when it was Normal State College. The guidance and mentoring to go into the business field came from my Boyce High School business teacher, Miss Polly Lou Hicks Sepulvado, mother of Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, current director of the School of Business. Miss Hicks, as she was known then, could have never imagined the foundation she gave me, the ability to convince me I could do or be anything I wanted to be.

"I have had great fun remembering all of this, but most of all, I am so proud of being the great-great aunt to my beautiful Tori Thompson, now a member of the Purple Jackets. My sister, Mrs. Polly Scott Eversull, wife of Dr. LeRoi E. Eversull who was a professor of geography at NSU for close to 40 years, is Tori's great-grandmother. Polly's daughter, Mrs. Sue Champion, Tori's grandmother, is an instructor at the present time in the School of Business."

Date _____

Name: (Miss, Mrs. Mr.) _____
 Please Circle Last First Middle Maiden

Current address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

NSU undergraduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

NSU graduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

During which years did you attend NSU? _____

Place of employment _____ Job title: _____

Work phone: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Is your spouse an NSU graduate? Yes ____ No ____ Year of graduation: _____

Do you have children who are potential Northwestern students?

Please tell us their names, contact information, and what high school they attend.

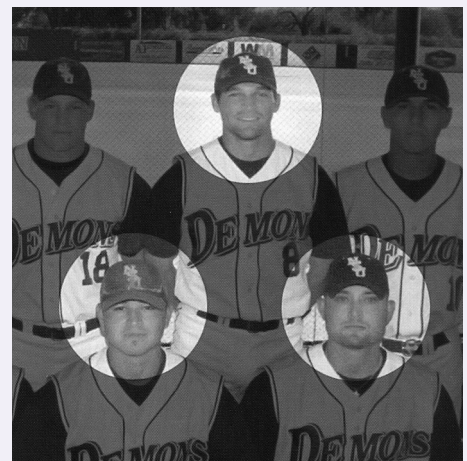
Please return to: Alumni Center • Northwestern State University • Natchitoches, LA 71497

Guess Who



The 1972-73 Men's Basketball media guide featured three "Pom Pom Girls" and Vic the Demon on the cover. Can you name them? The first five readers to call the Alumni Center at (318) 357-4414 will win a prize.

Answers to the Spring 2013 Guess Who, three senior members of the NSU baseball team picked in the 2002 Major League Baseball draft, were pitchers O.J. King and Carl Makowsky and third baseman Tyler Durham. Those who guess correctly were Lyndsey (2007) and Philip (2005) Miller and Annah (2003) and Will (2003) McGuffey.

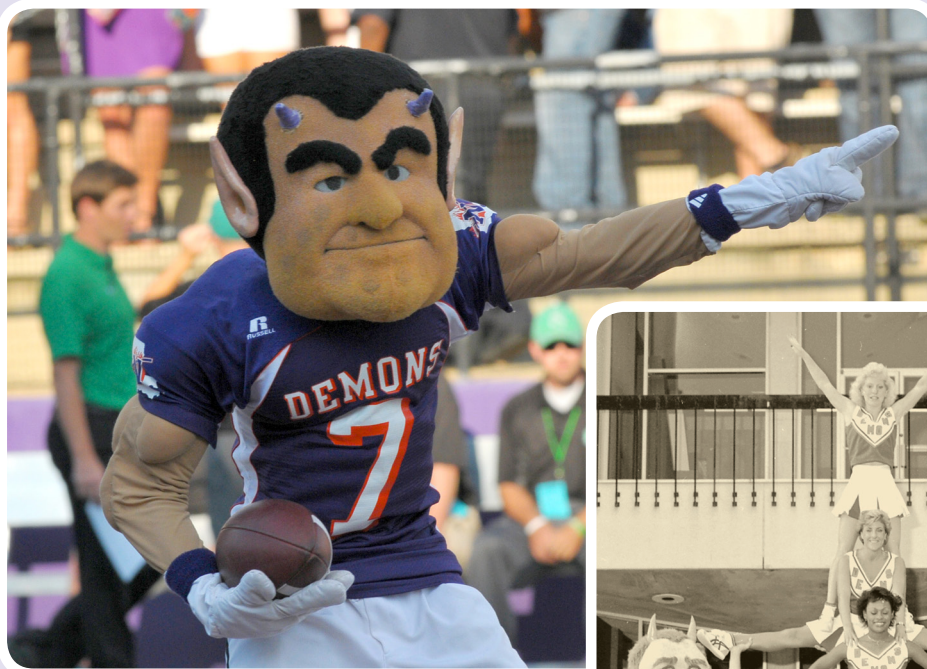




Graduates from 1963 who received second diplomas during spring commencement were, **front row from left**, Mildred Norris, JoAnn Powell, Helen Moses, Jerry Varnado, Gary Acklin, Judy Boone, Peggy Smith, Sara Hiern, Catherine Milne, Errol McRae, Nelda Loftin, Arnetta Hyams, Carolyn Weber. **On the second row are** Peggy Malmstrom, Linda Reese, Paul Thiel, Sue Peterson, Glendon Marshman, Bettye Lou Bennett, Mabel Coussons, Doris Graham, Juanita St. Andria, Anna Cook, Lorene Jones and Kay Payne. **On the third row are** Shearon Guidry, Dell Morgan, Al Jeanfreau, Annie Scriber, Martha Avegno, Ruth Pletz, Russell Gahagan, Doris LeBlanc, Madeline Coby, Kathryn Slack, Jerry Lary, Buddy Hyams, Edgar Lee Johnson and Donald Bush. **On the fourth row are** Joe Cornett, Virginia Blanton, Wayne Parker, Richard Mason, Frank Burton, Bill Winterrowd, Theresa Catteruccia, Gale Winn, JoNell Knotts, Pat Corie, Joynce Sisk and Myrtle Pattin. **On the fifth row are** Billy St. Andre, Leonard Blanton, Glenn Kramel, Allen Doughty, Allen Swilley, Marilyn Lloyd, Marian Doty, Virginia McConnell, Nettles Brown and Johnny Sisk. **On the back row are** Curtis Masingill, Norm Hicks, Iutress Cooley, John Martin, John Bolin, J.L. Ford, Robert Barrett., Smokey Johnson, Elmer Hermes, Frank Adams, Don Phillips, William Durand, Allen Holland, Mack Knotts and Walt Weaver.

Alumni News

Vic the Demon



See Vic in action
on YouTube



2012 Christmas
Gala: Wooden
Soldiers Style



Vic the Demon
Conducts the
SON



Vic the Demon at
the football game





Scholars' Anniversary concludes

The Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University, the state's only designated honors college, concluded its yearlong 25th anniversary celebration with events in March.

The College sponsored a panel discussion with several key figures who were instrumental in founding the College, including former State Rep. Jimmy D. Long, former Northwestern State President Dr. Robert Alost, Dr. Stan Chadick, Dr. Fraser Snowden and Don Barker.

The Scholars' College hosted a dinner to honor and thank founders Saturday, March 16. Faculty, students, NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb and other administrators and officials participated.

The Louisiana Scholars' College was founded in 1987 as a four-year selective admissions honors college in the liberal arts and sciences. The backbone of the Scholars' College course load is the Common Curriculum, of which the Texts and Traditions course is the most notable. Students can major or minor in any specialization offered by Northwestern State, or choose to major in the College's specialized liberal arts degree in one of five concentrations that include humanities and social thought, scientific inquiry, history and philosophy of science, fine and performing arts or foreign languages.

The Scholars' College was "a direct

outgrowth of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts," said Alost, who served as LSMSA's first director before becoming president of Northwestern State in 1986. In the summer of 1987, Alost engaged several administrators to visit other liberal arts colleges, develop a curriculum, hire faculty and recruit and advise students. Alost credited Long for playing an instrumental role in gaining approval for the creation of the Scholars' College.

Barker's role focused on academic advising, recruiting, retention and engaging students in extracurricular activities.

"I give all the credit in the world to the wonderful faculty we had in place," Barker said. "Dr. Stan Chadick deserves enormous credit for getting us through the first year."

From the beginning, the environment at the Scholars' College was one in which students not only tackled a challenging curriculum but also learned to successfully interact with people who are different from them, Barker said.

"Students learn from leading and learn from each other," Barker said. "They have varied backgrounds, they exchange ideas...it makes for a wonderful environment."

That environment persists today, with the College under the guidance of Dr. T. Davina McClain, LSC director

since 2006, who during her tenure has seen the College grow from 108 students to 211 last fall. LSC students are involved in the spectrum of campus extracurricular activities and have a graduation rate of 69 percent.

"Our students go on to graduate work across the U.S. and in Europe, law schools in and out of state and medical schools," McClain said. "They work for non-profits, teaching English in Korea, Japan and China, and teach other subjects especially here in Louisiana and Texas."

The Scholars' College special is special because of the sense of community among the faculty and students and their love of teaching and learning, McClain said.

"We can have heated and challenging discussions from different points of view and then go to lunch together and help each other," she said. "We are all passionate about learning and understanding and doing for others. That passion and dedication translates into a lot of work, but also an immense amount of happiness and satisfaction. There aren't really words that can convey what it means or how it feels to be a part of Scholars' College, but it is truly a wonderful place. I hope and believe it always will be."

For more information on the Louisiana Scholars' College, visit scholars.nsula.edu.

KA/50

Kappa Alpha 50-Year Reunion



Spotlights continued from page 6

Former Lady Demon appears on “MADE: Stunt Woman”

Northwestern State University alumna **Deven MacNair** appeared on MTV’s “Made” earlier this year. MacNair, a 1996 graduate in theatre, served as coach for an episode “MADE: Stunt Woman.”

MADE is a self-improvement reality television series. The series has followed teens who have a goal and want to be “made” into things like singers, athletes, dancers and skateboarders. The show is expanding to give opportunities to people in their early 20s who are looking for a career.

“The taping took over eight weeks,” said MacNair, a native of Ventura, Calif., who came to Northwestern State on a softball scholarship. “I worked with a woman who recently graduated from college. She went from someone with no stunt experience or relative skills to someone who could go on a stunt audition in a matter of weeks. I was glad I did it. I enjoyed getting to pass along some of the knowledge I have gained.”

MacNair has more than a dozen cred-

its over the past five years. She has been a stunt performer for films including 12 Rounds, The Green Lantern and Jonah Hex along with the TV series Treme and Common Law. MacNair has been a professional wrestler under the name Fire and has worked with the USO entertaining military personnel. Her next stunt role is in the upcoming Woody Harelson film Now You See Me.

At Northwestern State, MacNair was a four-year letter winner on the softball team and was looking for a way to continue using her skills as an athlete.

“As my graduation present, my parents paid for me to go to a sword workshop in Las Vegas,” said MacNair. “I then went to Los Angeles and after many dead ends bought a ticket to Universal Studios since I knew they had stunt shows there. After the show, I went to talk to the stunt performers and asked them how to get started. I met the director who said he was casting for a Universal Studios show in Ja-



pan and they were looking for six-foot blondes. I auditioned and got the part of Brunhilda the Viking Queen. I spent two years in Japan honing my craft and then came back to the U.S.”

MacNair says the chance to work on MADE should help her as she moves to the next stage in her career.

“I’ve been able to work steadily, but I hope to be able to move to the next level as a stunt coordinator,” said MacNair. “That is where the longevity is.”

The episode of MADE is available online at mtv.com.



A recent Northwestern State University graduate competed on NBC’s American Ninja Warrior, an obstacle course competition based on a popular Japanese series. **Reyn Sewell** (2013) of Pineville, travelled to Miami, Fla., to compete in the southeast regional competition the weekend before he received his degree in biology. If successful, he could travel to Los Vegas for the finals. The episodes will air in July on NBC. Sewell was prohibited from disclosing results of the regional trial before the episode airs.

American Ninja Warrior conducts a nation-wide search to find the ultimate athlete who will be crowned the American Ninja Warrior. The national finals will culminate in Las Vegas with the top 100 competitors trying their hand at the punishing four-stage obstacle

Northwestern State graduate competes on NBC’s American Ninja Warrior

course fashioned after the original Mount Midoriyama in Japan. Participants must turn themselves into acrobatic athletes to complete an arduous obstacle course to determine which will ultimately win the title and a \$500,000 prize. There is no guaranteed winner.

“I’d seen it on TV and thought ‘I think I can do this. I have a pretty good shot at competing,’” he said.

Sewell submitted a video that demonstrates his athletic strength and agility as well as an individual who thrives on pressure and competition. After submitting the video, which is posted on YouTube as Reyn American Ninja Warrior 2013 Submission, he got a call from the show’s casting director.

Sewell has participated in grueling competitions before. He beat more than 7,000 competitors to place first in the Baton Rouge Warrior Dash, an extreme 5K race with obstacles that include jumping over fire and crawling

through mud beneath barbed wire. He placed third out of 10,000 in the Mississippi Warrior Dash and first in the New Orleans Warrior Dash. He has been competing in races since eighth grade when he ran track. He ran cross country in high school and later competed in triathlons and 100-mile bike races.

Sewell’s training for American Ninja Warrior included developing strength and power lifting skills, balance, agility and grip strength. He spent a lot of time outdoors, jumping, scaling walls and pushing himself in parkour-type training, he said.

At Northwestern, Sewell was a Freshman Connector and involved in the River Campus Ministry (RCM)/River Community Church and the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. He also played intramural sports and was a member of the Chamber Choir and Blue Key. He plans to attend seminary.

Campus News



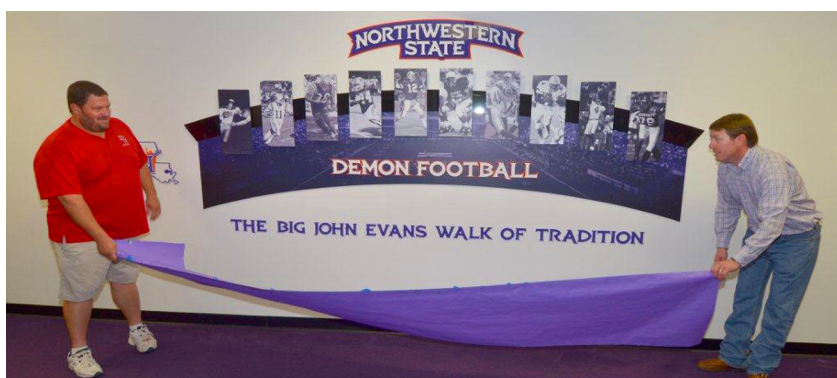
Not everyone who retires from Northwestern State gets serenaded by a male chorus or a room packed with students, colleagues and family. But Janette Aaron does. "After more than 22 years of serving Northwestern State University and the Scholars' College by taking care of stray animals, students and faculty, cleaning crawfish tanks, hand lettering certificates, making coffee, providing advice on auto mechanics and dentists and generally making everyone's life better, Janette Aaron will trade her career at

NSU/LSC for taking care of her cats, dog, husband -- not in that order -- grandkids, kids and pretty much anyone else who needs her help," remarked Dr. T. Davina McClain, LSC director, prior to Aaron's retirement celebration in March. Amid the hugs, the misty eyes and well wishes, McClain presented Aaron with a special hand-lettered certificate of highest distinction for Humanity and Thought for Others. She also knighted her in a revered Scholars' tradition, *semel in scolaris semper scolaris*.

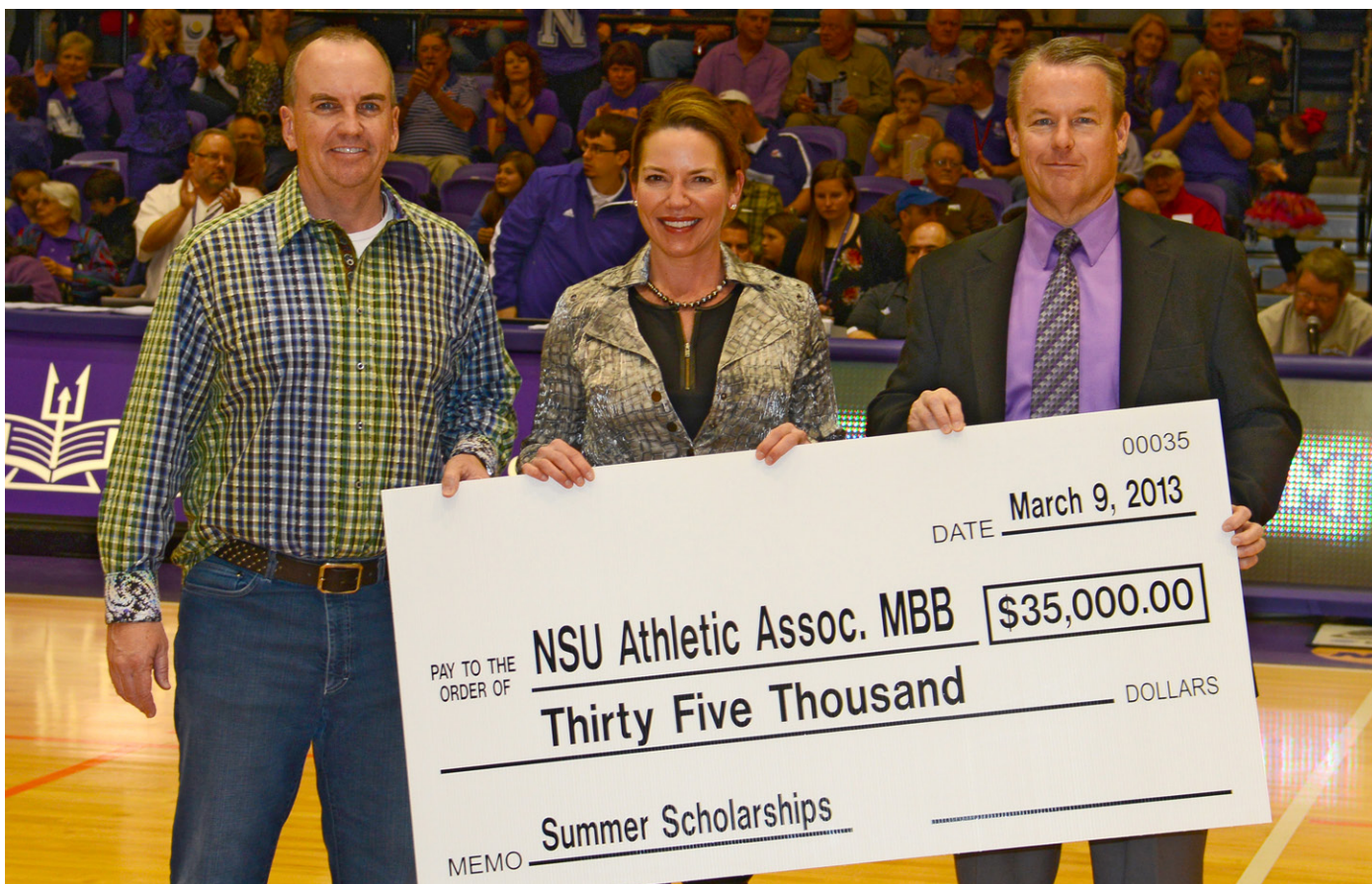
Athletic News



Northwestern State University grad Steve Stroud, left, and his wife Lori presented a \$35,000 donation to the NSU Men's Basketball program to support summer school expenses not covered by student-athlete scholarships. The Strouds are close friends of Men's Basketball Coach Mike McConathy, center, and passionate basketball fans. Read more about this story on page 24.



Dedication ceremonies were held April 17 for "The Big John Evans Walk of Tradition" on the second floor of the NSU Athletic Fieldhouse. John's brother, Allen, right, made a donation to the NSU Athletic Association to underwrite the cost of displays for the second floor and wanted to name the project for his brother, whose passion for NSU Athletics is second to none. The displays include school record holders, All-Americans, retired jerseys, and much more related to the sports—football, track and field, and baseball —whose offices are in the George Doherty Wing. The project was done by Richardson, Texas-based Quattro Graphics, Inc., which does this sort of work for Division I schools across the nation.



Steve and Lori Stroud were recognized by Athletic Director Greg Burke during the Men's Basketball Centennial celebration.

Stroud donation ear-marked for student-athlete summer school expenses

Northwestern State alumnus Steve Stroud and his wife Lori were named honorary captains for the Modern Era Team during the Centennial Celebration of basketball at NSU. The Strouds donated \$35,000 specifically to assist with summer school expenses for student-athletes on the men's basketball team.

"I'm passionate about basketball," said Stroud, who earned a degree in marketing/business administration at Northwestern State in 1981. "I love the sport and I love getting to know those kids."

More importantly, Stroud also has a desire to help Coach Mike McConathy, whom he considers a close friend, and his student-athletes. The men's basketball team has an 85 percent graduation rate for players McConathy inherited or recruited, an exceptionally high statistic for a public university. Stroud's contribution is earmarked for summer school expenses, which are not covered under their athletic scholarships.

"It is impressive that under Mike McConathy's leadership, the NSU men's basketball program has placed itself among the best Division I programs nationwide in terms of graduation rate," Athletic Director Greg Burke said. "Mike's priorities are, and always have been, in the right place. His concern for the young men in the Demon basketball program far exceed their ability to play the game and extend to genuine concern for their academic pursuits and personal development. One could not ask

for any more in a head coach and that approach has been very positive for NSU."

"My wife Lori and I do our best to help out every year," Stroud said. "Coach McConathy's 85 percent graduation rate is important to us."

Stroud grew up in Natchitoches and played basketball at Natchitoches Central High School.

"I felt a connection with kids who needed an opportunity," he said. "I see how good these kids are and a lot of people don't know it. They just need a chance. It's close to my heart."

Stroud and McConathy became friends after McConathy took over the program in 1999 and Stroud and his family are avid supporters. A defining moment for them was watching the 2001 team win the Southland Conference championship, which led to NSU's first appearance in the NCAA tournament.

"Steve is a special friend. He embodies what you want from a fan's perspective," McConathy said. "He has a great deal of passion for Northwestern State basketball and loves Northwestern. This is their school and their team and the whole family is on board and they are passionate about Demon basketball."

"Growing up in Natchitoches, I went to Northwestern games and it was a goal of mine that if I could, I wanted to do something to help," he said.

Alumni After Hours



Baton Rouge



Dallas



Shreveport



Houston



Atlanta



Lafayette



Golden Jubilee/50-year Reunion lunch and reception

